

Living Life as Sacred Story 2014: FORTY WEEKS

Weeks 21: Advice and Suggestions

Week 21 combines the first three words of *Sacred Story Prayer*:

CREATION

PRESENCE

MEMORY

We remember that *Sacred Story Prayer* is about finding islands of quiet where we can open to the Spirit of God in the midst of our busy lives. It is not so much about feeling peaceful, as it is opening our lives to Christ to discover what leads to our peace.

The text this week is familiar to us. We do not have the Prelude or Illuminative Grace texts for the *Sacred Story* words, but we have the single sentence for each theme to keep us focused. If we are finding it particularly difficult to understand a theme, we can go back as often as we wish to the Prelude and Illuminative Grace texts from Week 17 (Creation), Week 18 (Presence), or Week 20 (Memory).

Combining three words means we are lessening the minutes of prayer time for each theme, but that is intentional: the Spirit will always draw us to the theme that is most important for us at the time we pray. So we remain open to each prayer theme without feeling obligated to spend more or less time with each.

Because we now have three words, it is beneficial to ask for the graces to “see” the ways the themes connect to our story. We want to be very aware of how the Spirit is speaking to us in these connections. Also, we always remember to trust that it is the Lord’s work, not ours, to draw us to holiness – our labor is to allow the Lord to labor in us!

We have three pieces of advice in the [Week 21 E&W](#). We want to utilize the pragmatic reflections offered here, which often shed new light on our 15-minute prayer periods. It will be especially helpful if we find ourselves struggling – we must not forget that “E&W” stands for “*Encouragement* and *Wisdom*”!